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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/815,067	03/31/2004	Kenneth Lawrence Young	MSFT-3486/307557.01	7859

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EXAMINER	
BELOUSOV, ANDREY	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2174	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
04/30/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/815,067	YOUNG ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	ANDREY BELOUSOV	2174	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *08 February 2008*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *29-48* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *29-48* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *2/8/2008*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This action is responsive to an RCE filed on February 8, 2008. Claims 29-48 are pending.

Specification

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 29-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Excel (Microsoft® Excel 2000, Copyright (c) 1985-1999 Microsoft Corp.)

Claim 29: Excel discloses a grid canvas, comprising

a. a canvas (Fig. 1: white surface area);
b. a gridline on the canvas (Fig. 1: 14), wherein the gridline is one of a plurality of components (Fig. 1: gray A-H and 1-25 tabs, cells, etc.) on the canvas;
c. an element at least in part in a cell (Fig. 1:12) on the canvas (Fig. 1: 10, "2+2"), wherein the element is one of the plurality of components on the canvas; and

d. a property (e.g. geometric, See Fig. 1) of the gridline, wherein the property is a relationship of the gridline to the element on the canvas (e.g. geometric relationship of distance between the element and the gridline, see Fig. 1), and the relationship is maintained between the gridline and the element (Fig. 1.)

Claim 30: Excel discloses the grid canvas according to claim 29, wherein the gridline is defined by at least one of: a row; a column; or at least one row and at least one column (Fig. 1.)

Claim 31: Excel discloses the grid canvas according to claim 30, wherein the row or the column are, respectively, a virtual row or virtual column (Fig. 1.)

Claim 32: Excel discloses the grid canvas according to claim 29, further comprising a gridline bounding box (Fig. 1: 18 outer border along the inside the A-H and 1-25 tabs) that includes the element.

Claim 33: Excel discloses the grid canvas according to claim 32, wherein the gridline bounding box comprises a plurality of rows (Fig. 1, 1-25 rows) and columns (Fig. 1, A-H rows) that contain the element.

Claim 34: Excel discloses the grid canvas according to claim 32, further comprising margin settings within the gridline bounding box for providing desired offsets to the element (Fig. 1, expanding column D.)

Claim 35: Excel discloses the grid canvas according to claim 29, wherein a gridline defines a border of the canvas (Fig. 1.)

Claim 36: Excel discloses the grid canvas according to claim 29, wherein the relationship of the gridline to the element on the canvas is defined as an explicit value (Fig. 1: "Width: 10.29 (77 pixels)".)

Claim 37: Excel discloses the grid canvas according to claim 29, wherein the relationship of the gridline to the element on the canvas is defined as an auto value (the width of cells (elements) is an auto default of 64 pixels wide; Fig. 1.)

Claim 38: Excel discloses a method for creating a grid canvas, comprising

a. identifying a canvas (Fig. 1: white surface area. Identification (by Excel) is inherent in order to display the program on the display as shown);
b. identifying a gridline (Fig. 1: 14) on the canvas, wherein the gridline is one of a plurality of components (Fig. 1: gray A-H and 1-25 tabs, cells, etc.) on the canvas;

c. identifying an element (Fig. 1: 10, "2+2") at least in part in a cell on the canvas, wherein the element is one of the plurality of components on the canvas;
d. identifying a relationship (e.g. geometric relationship of distance between the element and the gridline, see Fig. 1) of the gridline to the element on the canvas;
e. changing a property of at least one of: the canvas, or the at least one of the plurality of components on the canvas (Fig. 1: expanding cell D10); and
f. maintaining the relationship of the gridline to the element on the canvas (Fig. 1.)

Claim 39: Excel discloses the method according to claim 38, wherein the step of identifying a relationship of the gridline to the element on the canvas is repeated for a plurality of gridlines and a plurality of elements (Fig. 1. It is inherent that a plurality of elements can be placed on the canvas. Identification (by Excel) is inherent in order to display the program on the display as shown)

Claim 40: Excel discloses the method according to claim 38, further comprising adding a gridline dynamically (i.e. continuously) to the canvas (Fig. 1: changes in the cells cause dynamic updating of gridlines.)

Claim 41: Excel discloses the method according to claim 38, further comprising: overlaying a grid on the canvas (Fig. 1), wherein the grid comprises a plurality of gridlines (Fig. 1); identifying a relationship (Fig. 1: position of the gridline to the

boundary of the element) of at least one of the plurality of gridlines to at least one of the plurality of components on the canvas.

Claim 42: Excel discloses the method according to claim 38, further comprising adding a component on the grid (Fig. 1. It is inherent that a plurality of additional components can be placed on the canvas, such as the "2+2" element.)

Claim 43: Excel discloses the method according to claim 38, further comprising: placing the gridline on the canvas according to a predetermined relationship of the gridline to at least one of the plurality of components on the canvas (gridline is placed to outline the cells: Fig. 1.)

Claim 44: Excel discloses the method according to claim 38, further comprising placing the gridline on the canvas (selection of "Gridlines" options overlays a grid, Fig. 2); identifying a relationship of the gridline to at least one of the plurality of components on the canvas according to the placement of the gridline on the canvas (Fig. 1: position of the gridline to the boundary of the element.)

Claim 45: Excel discloses the method according to claim 38, further comprising adding a component to the canvas; maintaining the relationship of the gridline to the element on the canvas (Fig. 1: It is inherent that a plurality of additional components can be placed on the canvas, such as the "2+2" element.)

Claim 46: Excel discloses the method according to claim 38, wherein the gridline is defined by a plurality of rows and columns (Fig. 1) that define a plurality of virtual cells (Fig. 1: A1-H25), and at least one of the plurality of components (Fig. 3: "USPTO banner") spans a plurality of the virtual cells (Fig. 3: B14-H16.)

Claim 47: Excel discloses the method of claim 46, further comprising adding a component to the canvas, wherein the added component inhabits at least one of the same cells of the plurality of virtual cells inhabited by the at least one of the plurality of components (Fig. 4.)

Claim 48: Excel discloses the method of claim 38, further comprising determining a gridline bounding box for the element (Fig. 1: bolded box around "2+2".)

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed February 8, 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

5. Applicant argues that Excel does not teach a "property of the gridline." The Examiner disagrees. The gridline (and in particular, gridline as referenced: Fig. 1: 14) has many properties, many of which are not explicitly defined or hard coded within the Excel program, but such is not a requirement for a "property" or subsequently for a "relationship," as claimed. Such concepts, as property and relationship, are innate as

viewed from the perspective of an observer. The claim that there is some sort of a relationship between an element and the gridline, which is also maintained, (and under no disclosed condition of duration or limitation) is fantastically broad. As such, it is sufficient that a mere presence of the element geometrically next to the gridline as shown in figure 1, to anticipate a relationship that is maintained (even if for a brief moment.)

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew Belousov whose telephone number is (571) 270-1695. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (alternate Fri off) EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A. Wiley can be reached on (571) 272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-3800. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO

Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AB

April 23, 2008

/David A Wiley/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2174